

March 1, 2023
Judy Puglisi

In support of HB 6763 and SB 1093

Good Afternoon Distinguished Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Judy Puglisi, I live in New Haven, and I am a retired New Haven Public School teacher and high school principal.

I write in support of HB 6763: An Act Concerning An Audit of the STATE-WIDE MASTERY EXAMINATION and SB1093 Related to Class Size. A comprehensive audit of our state's testing system, as well as a careful analysis of the testing industry itself, is long overdue.

The median compensation for CEOs of companies in the Educational Services sector is estimated to be around \$3.3 million per year. According to Forbes, the total annual revenue of the College Board, was \$1.1 billion in 2018, while the total annual revenue of the ACT was \$400 million. It would be naive to not acknowledge the corrupting influence this type of exorbitant compensation and revenue has on the testing industry, as well as the harm that the industry's poorly constructed assessments inflict on children and their education.

It is important to note, that while these corporations may claim to be providing valuable services, their primary motivation is to generate profit which results in decisions that prioritize profit over student learning. The industry focuses on creating tests that can be easily administered to large groups of students, rather than tests that actually measure student learning. This combined with the the testing industry's lack of transparency and accountability, supports the need for an audit to ensure that testing corporations are not exploiting our public education system for their own profits.

The proposed audit is an essential first step towards creating a valid and reliable accountability system that is designed to promote learning, inform instruction, and renew public trust in our educational system.

As someone who is familiar with the research in education, and has more than 40 years experience as a practitioner in the field, I strongly believe that high quality teacher-created performance assessments are a more effective and meaningful way to measure student learning and progress.

Research has shown that teacher-created performance assessments provide a more accurate picture of student learning than standardized tests. According to a study by the National Research Council, teacher-created assessments are better suited to measuring complex learning outcomes and are more closely aligned with the goals of instruction.

And perhaps, most importantly, authentic performance assessment provides more meaningful feedback to students, which can help them to understand their strengths and weaknesses and improve their learning. Skilled teacher feedback to students can only be accomplished with reasonable class sizes. The class size limits set by SB 1093, combined with the assessment audit, will position Connecticut to finally deliver the high quality education that every child in this state deserves.

I strongly urge this committee to support HB 6763 and SB 1093.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I would be happy to take questions.

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